

King Eider

18 Nov 1950

opposite New Boston, Louisa Co., IA

E. C. Graham, Tom Morrissey

Putnam Museum # 162.2; Morrissey 1951, Brown 1971, IBL 61:84

Record Number: 89-AK

Classification: NA

SPECIMEN

Putnam Museum #162.2 [not confirmed yet]

REFERENCES

Morrissey, T. 1951. Another Iowa record of King Eider. IBL 21:41.

Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. Iowa State J. Sci. 45:387-469. p 402.

Newlon, M. C., and T. H. Kent. 1981. Fifth record of King Eider for Iowa. IBL 51:126-129.

Records Committee: IBL 61:84

VOTE: 3 A-S, 3 NA

NA. Written description itself is not conclusive. Would consider acceptance if specimen or photos seen.

NA. Again, the question is one of location rather than identification. "Near New Boston, Illinois" does not necessarily place the bird in Iowa!

A-S. Some description of bird, consistent with King Eider. Appears bird was indeed shot in Iowa.

NA. Morrissey and Hall were expert and professional observers; however, the description does not address critical field marks and we have not seen the specimen or photographed it. I am unwilling to accept expert opinion without convincing detail on a bird that is difficult to identify. If we can find the specimen and photograph it, the next step is to find out whether the "outer basin" is in Iowa or Illinois.

A-S. Evidence clearly links Putnam specimen with its provenance.

89-ak King Eider; 18 Nov 1950; opposite New Boston, Louisa Co., IA; E. C. Graham, Tom Morrissey; Putnam Museum # 162.2.

Morrissey, T. 1951. Another Iowa record of the King Eider. *Iowa Bird Life* 21:41.

Another Iowa Record of the King Eider.—On November 18, 1950, E. C. Graham of Davenport, killed a duck which he was unable to identify on the "Outer Basin" of the Mississippi near New Boston, Illinois. This duck was brought to the Davenport Public Museum by Charles Adamson, State Conservation Officer, and was identified as a King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). The "Outer Basin" of the New Boston area lies within the mid-stream water boundary of the state of Iowa and consequently this specimen constitutes another record for the state. The bird was prepared by Fred Hall, director of the Davenport Public Museum and is now in the collection of the Museum. It appears to be an immature male (inadvertently, the bird was not sexed). It is very dark, blackish-brown below; brown above with reddish-brown scapulars; secondary coverts lightly tipped with white to form an indistinct band across the wing; head and neck tan. The gizzard contained a soft, oval seed (*Potamogeton?*), some plant fibers, some round pieces of carbonaceous material resembling charred twigs, and fine quartz gravel. The intestine was heavily parasitized throughout its length by two species of thorny-headed worms (*Acanthocephala*).

Apparently the only other record for Iowa, quoted by both Anderson (1907) and DuMont (1934), is of an immature male received by William Praeger at Keokuk on November 18 or November 10, 1894. This specimen was also taken on the Mississippi River. It is now in the collection of the Museum of Natural History of the State University of Iowa.—THOMAS MORRISSEY, Davenport, Iowa.

Brown, W. H. 1971. An annotated list of the birds of Iowa. *Iowa State J. Sci.* 45:387-469. p 402.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (Linnaeus)

Accidental

The only recent records are: 18 November, 1950 on the Mississippi River opposite New Boston, Ill. (Morrissey, 1951), and 20 December, 1954, Bellevue, Jackson Co. (MJ, pers. comm.).